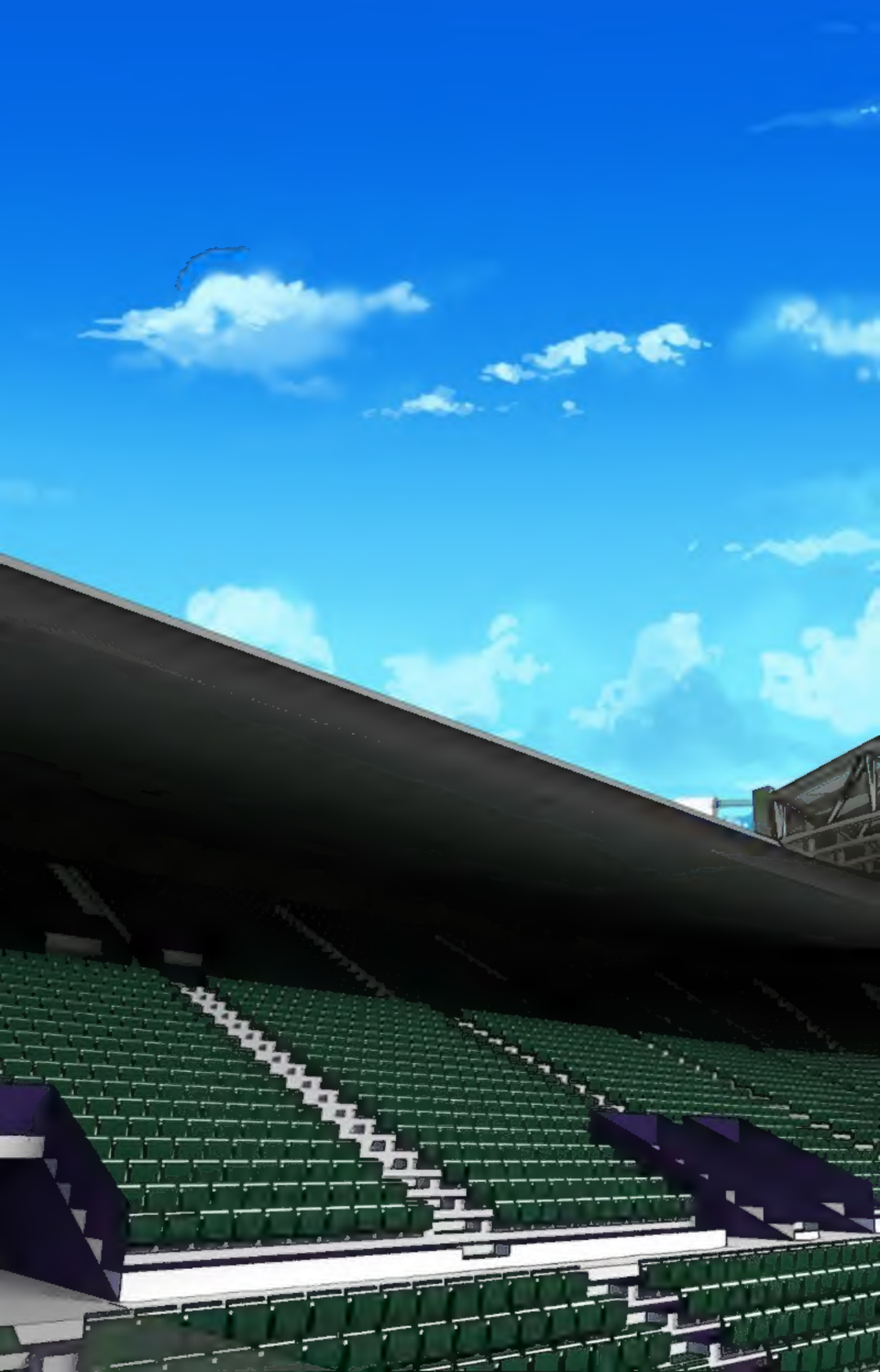
HE'S-...

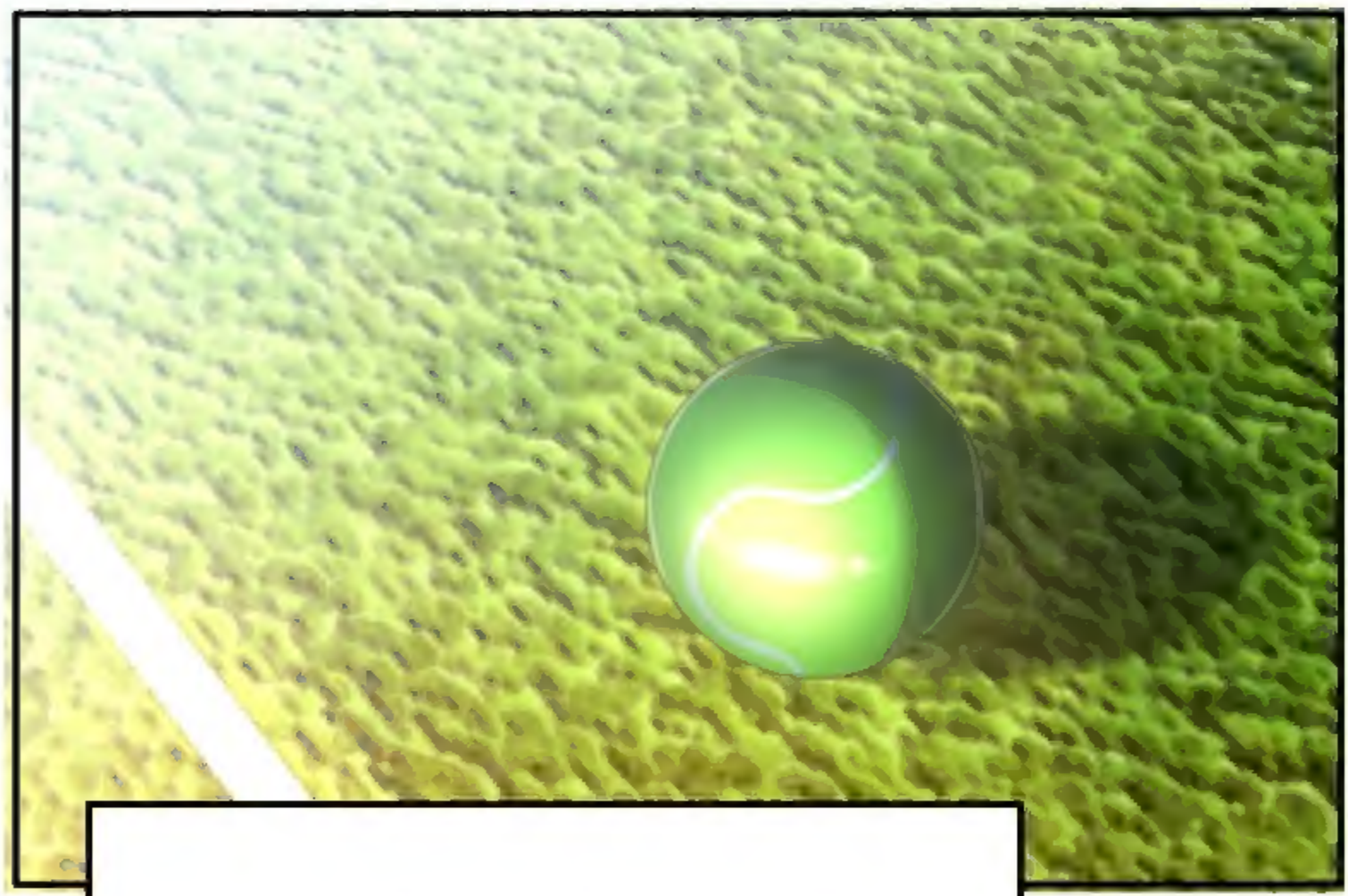
..BLEEDING!?

39

The Beauty and the Beast



" MY DAD ONCE TOLD ME
AXEL'S TENNIS WAS DESIGNED TO
HURT HIS OPPONENTS.
I DID EXPERIENCE
IT MYSELF BUT.."



"..THAT DAY,
I NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD
DO SOMETHING SO
HORRIBLE TO MY MUM."

" I THOUGHT HE'S JUST
BEING STUPID ON
PURPOSE."

" I WAS SO NAIVE.

I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.."

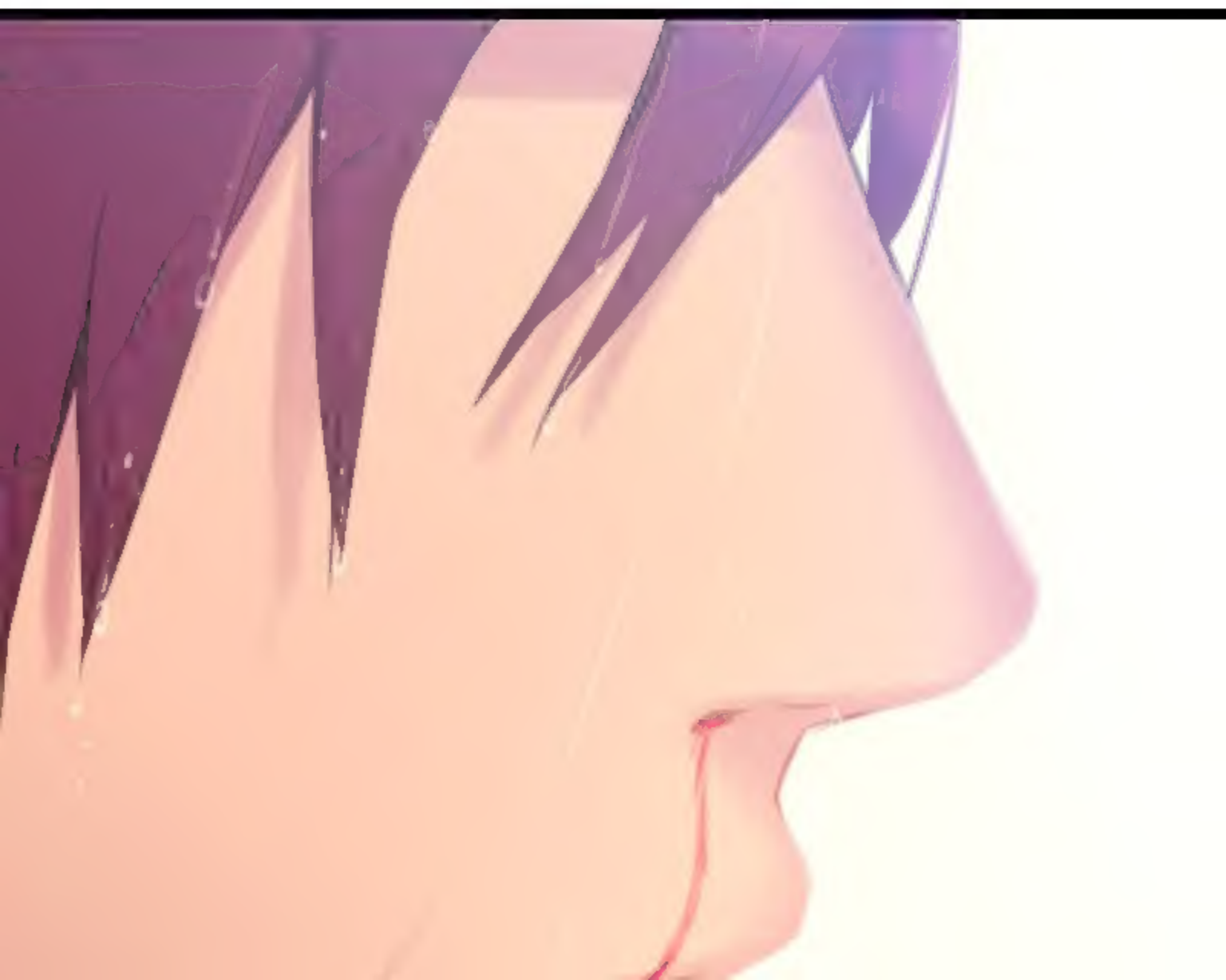
"..SOMETHING'S WRONG

WITH HIM."

AXEL...

HE'S-..

" HE'S INSANE "



HA..
HA..
HA..
HA..

HA..

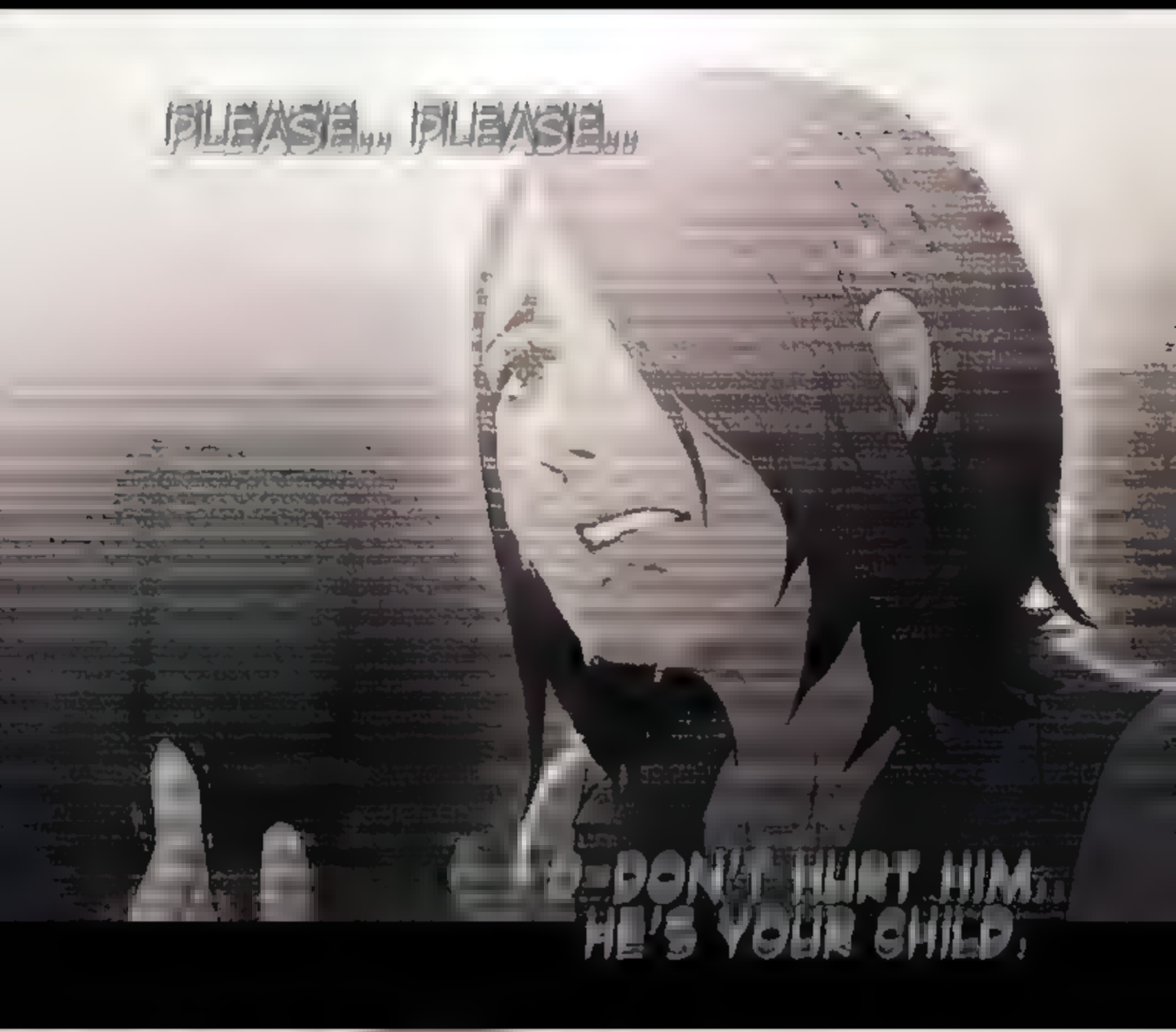
HA..

HA..

HA..

HA..

HA..


PLEASE... PLEASE...
...DON'T HURT HIM. HE'S YOUR CHILD.

MY CHILD?

IS THIS WHY YOU NAMED HIM AFTER NATHAN!?
YOU BITCH!!!

DADDY..

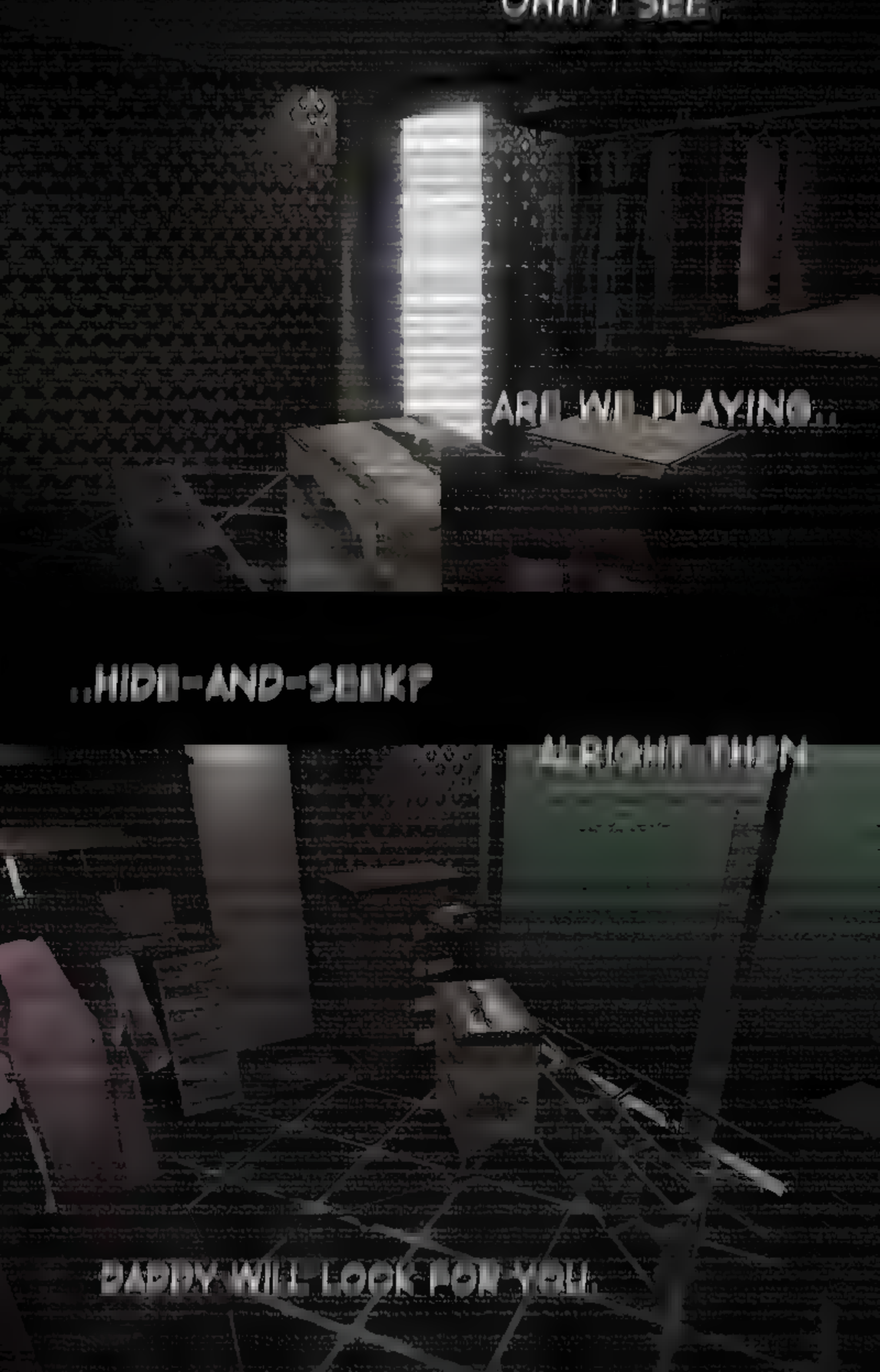
DADDY..

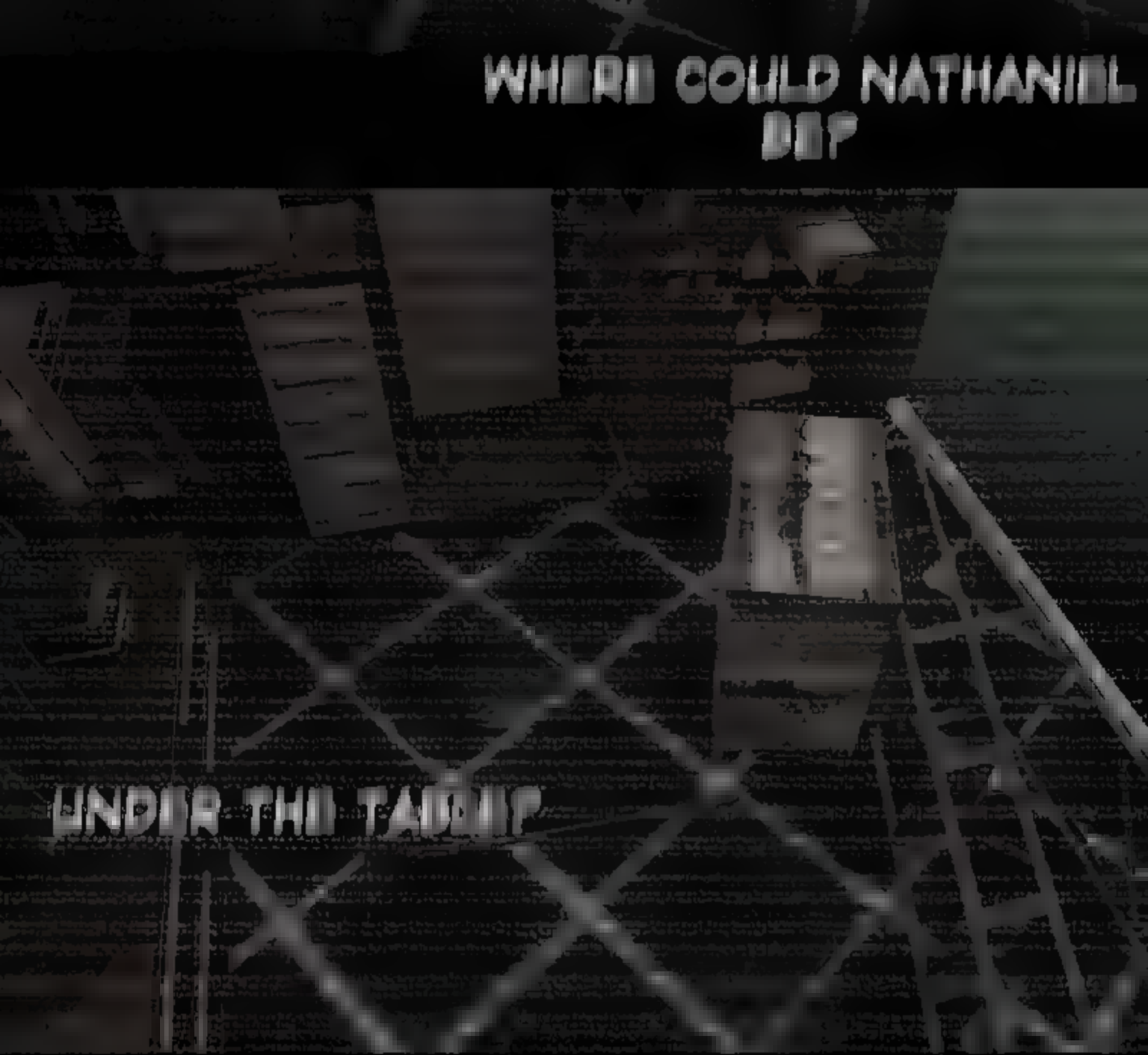
DADDY..

W-WHAT IS THIS?

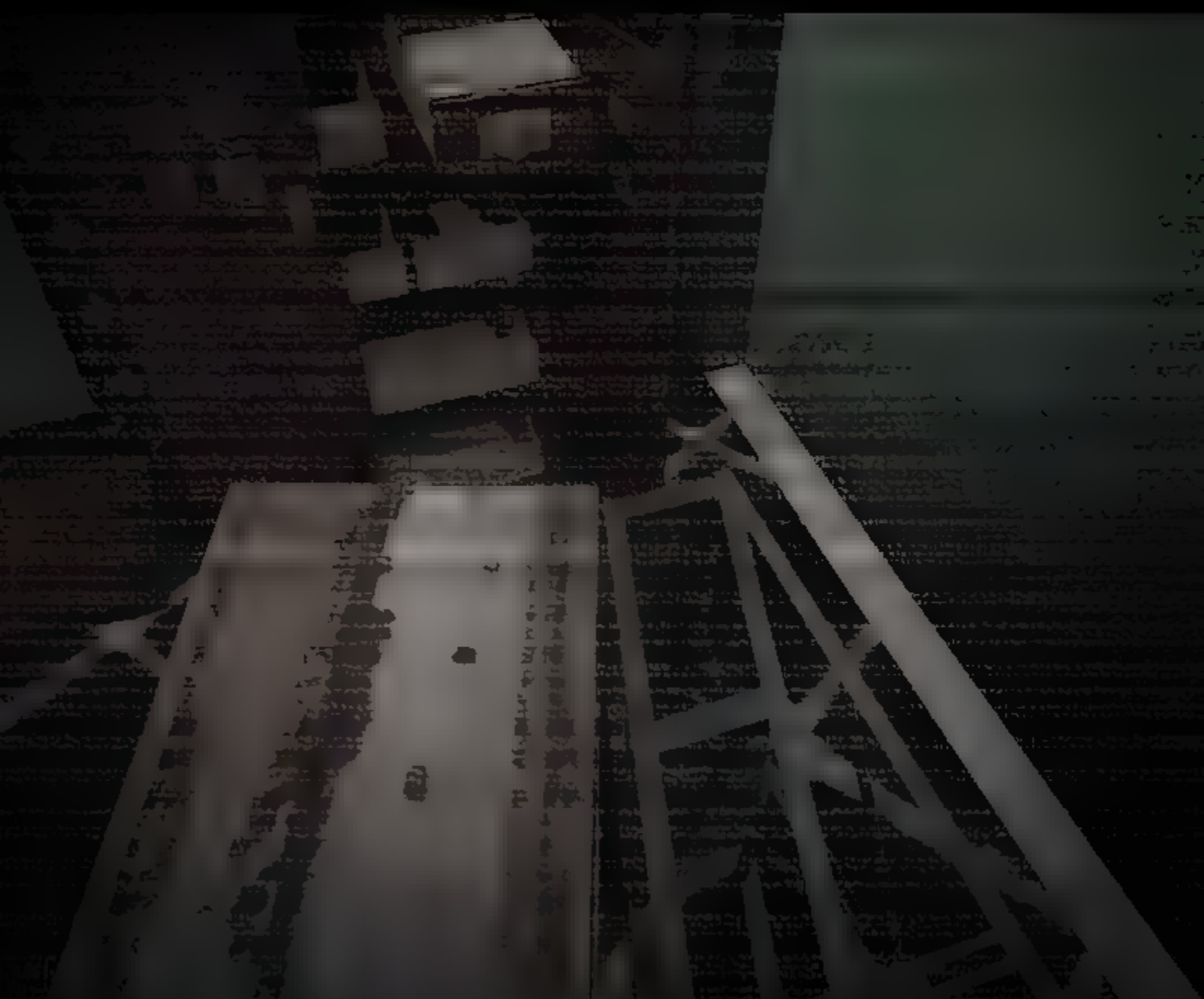
WHY AM I SEEING THIS?

DADDY WANTS TO PLAY WITH YOU.


CAN I SEE
ARE WE PLAYING...
..HIDE-AND-SEEK?
ALRIGHT THEN
DADDY WILL LOOK FOR YOU


WHERE COULD NATHANIEL
DEF
UNDER THE TABLE?
BEHIND THE DOORS?

OR MAYBE..

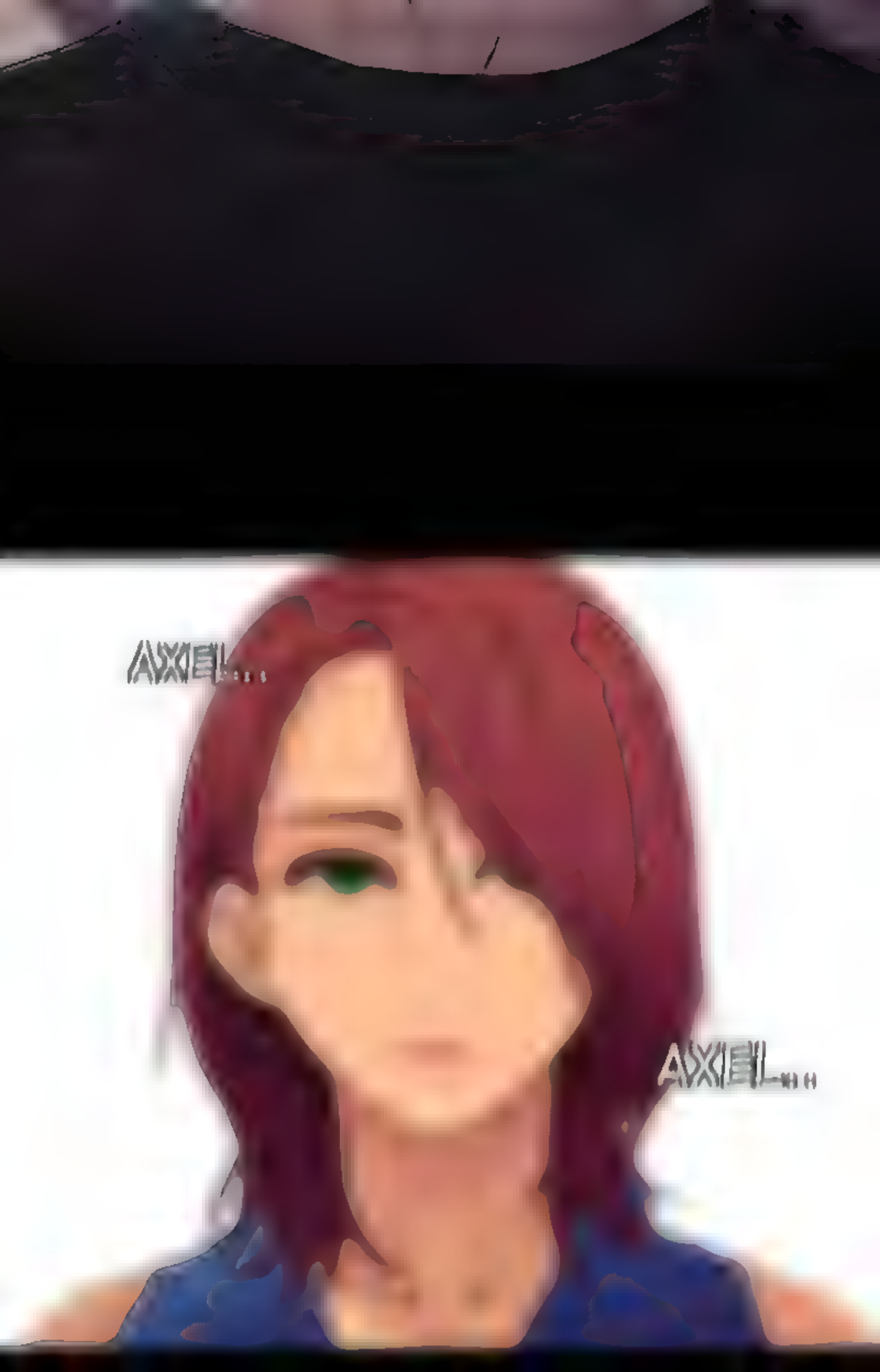


FOUND YOU.

NO..

NO..

STOP..


AXIEL...
AXIEL...

"MOM?"

AXEL..
AXEL..

AXEL!!

!!

YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

ANYA..

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? DOES YOUR HEAD HURT?
N-NO.. I'M FINE.
LET ME CLEAN THOSE BLOOD, OKAY?

EXCUSE ME?

HOW IN THE WORLD IS THAT THREE METERS, ANYA?
ARE YOU TRYING TO TEST MY PATIENCE?
YOU DON'T WANT TO START ON ME NOW, DO YOU?

BUT MUM!
HE'S BLEEDING,

I JUST-..

OH MY GOD.
MY HEAD HURTS!
I THINK
I'M BLEEDING
TOO.

ANYA GET ME
SOME WATER
PLEASE?
HURRY UP!

WHY IS SHE BEING SO CHILDISH!?

MEANWHILE..

FEW MILES AWAY FROM THE STADIUM..

NATHAN'S GREATEST BATTLE BEGINS.

COME ON NOW QUINNEE.
YOU HAVE TO EAT. MOMMY WILL KILL ME IF YOU-..
NO!

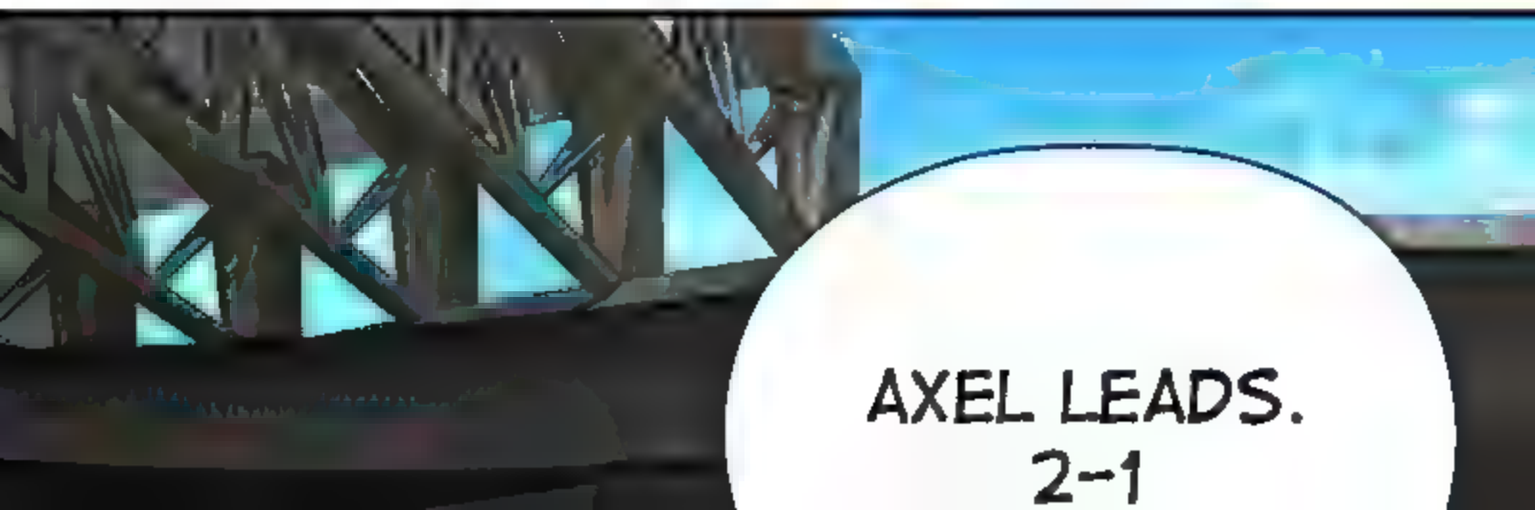
I WILL WAIT FOR MUM.

I THINK THAT'S A BAD IDEA, QUINNEE.

ALRIGHT.
HOW ABOUT WE
ORDER EXTRA LARGE
CURLY FRIES,
BURGER AND CHICKEN,
AND A STRAWBERRY
SUNDAE FOR DESSERT,
HUH?

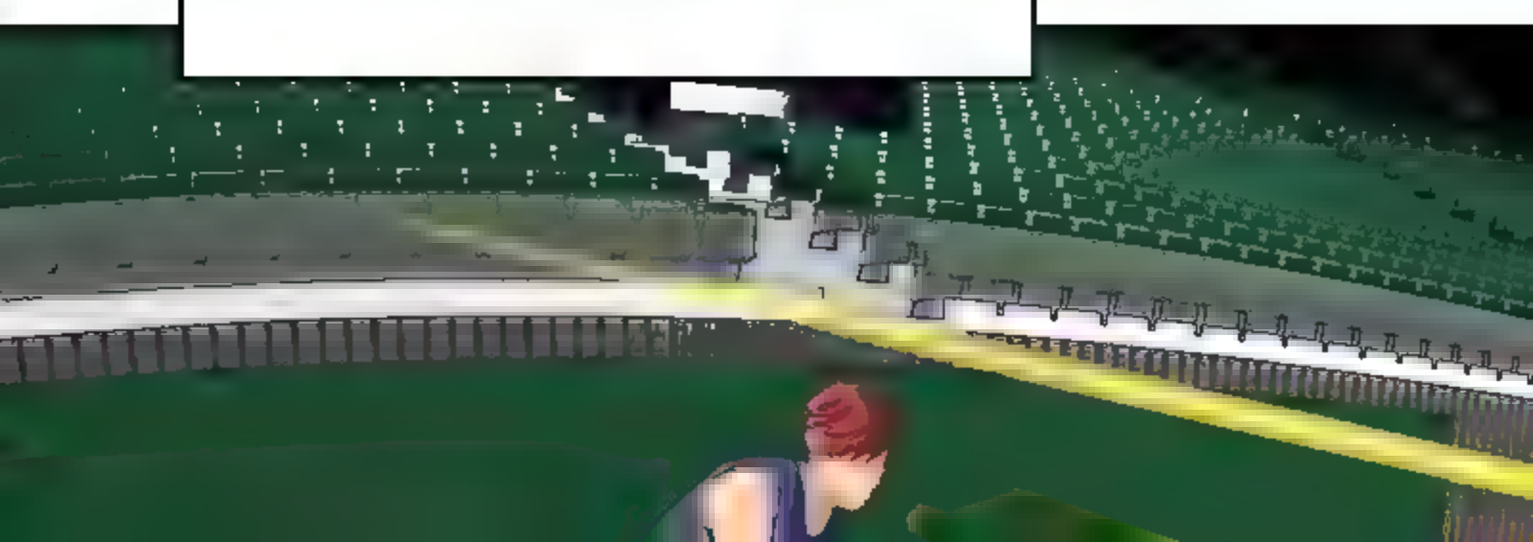
HMMP!!

...


AXEL LEADS.
2-1

KOIZUMI AXEL
TO SERVE!

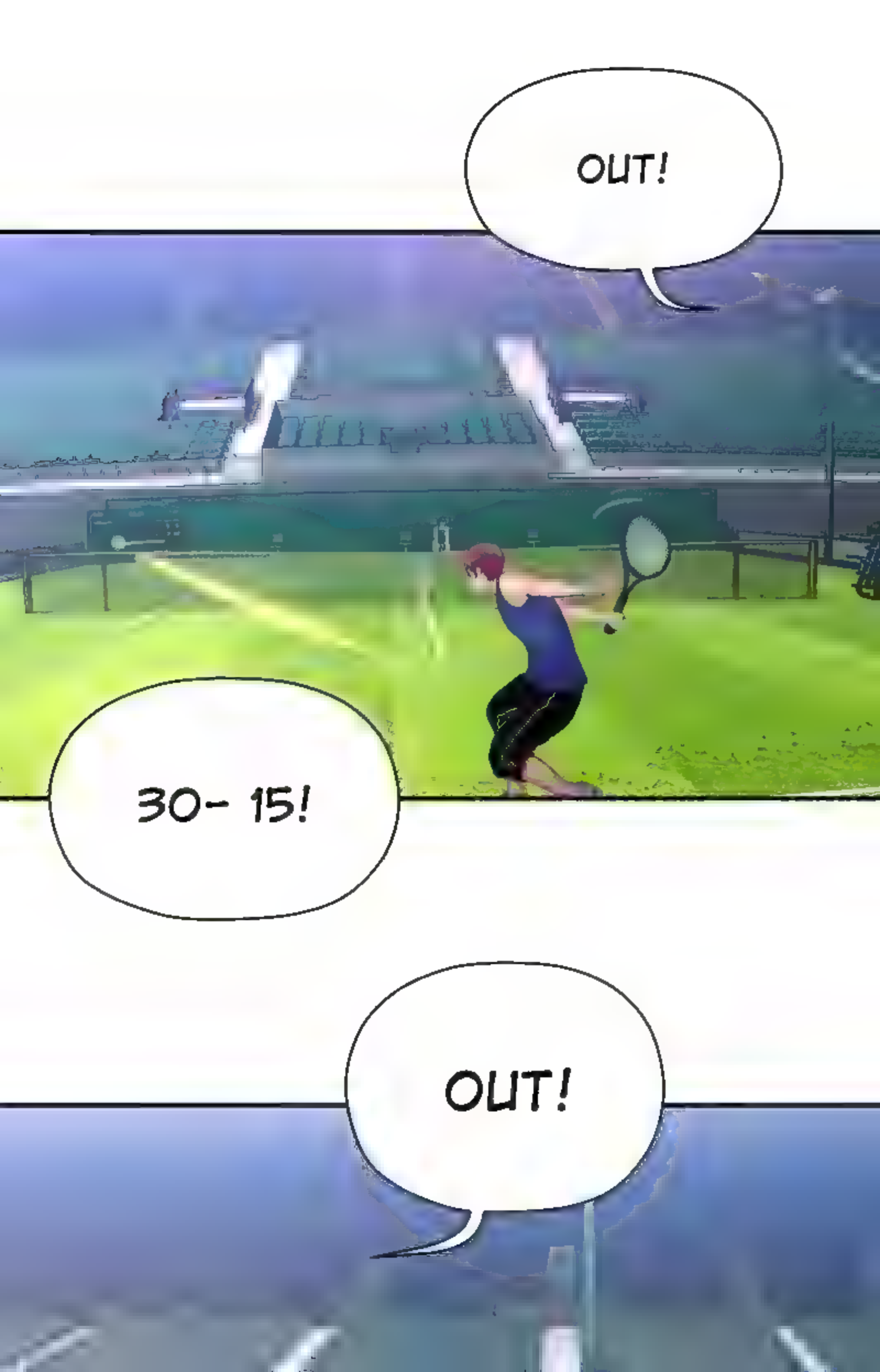
" HE WAS JUST
DOING FINE AFTER
HIS SERVICE PLAY"



" AXEL PLAYED THE WAY HE DID DURING THE FIRST GAMES."

15- LOVE!

30- LOVE!


OUT!
30- 15!
OUT!

OUT!
30-40!

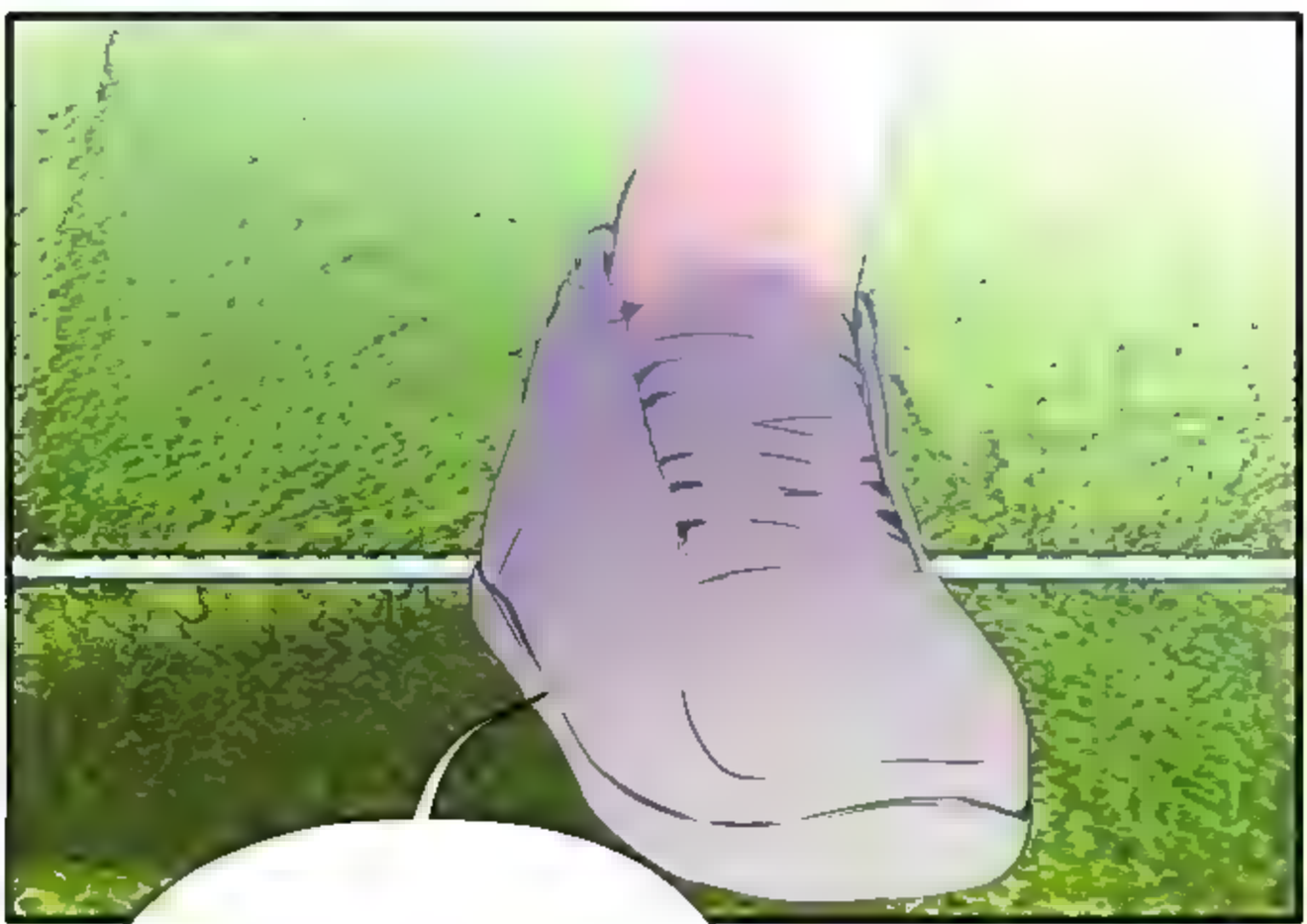
" HE STILL TRIED TO COPY MOM'S MOVE BUT HE FAILED TO PERFECT IT."

I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO USE THE OTHER SIDE OF MY TENNIS, KID.

I NEVER USED THIS FORM IN MY OFFICIAL MATCHES.

IT LOOKS SO

IT LOOKS SO UNGRACEFUL TO ME BUT..



..THIS WAS THE TENNIS I USED TO BEAT NATHAN.

EVEN IF YOU MANAGE TO COPY ME.
YOU CAN NEVER OUTPLAY THE QUEEN OF THIS COURT!

WHY'D YOU SWITCH HANDS?
ARE YOU RIGHT-HANDED?

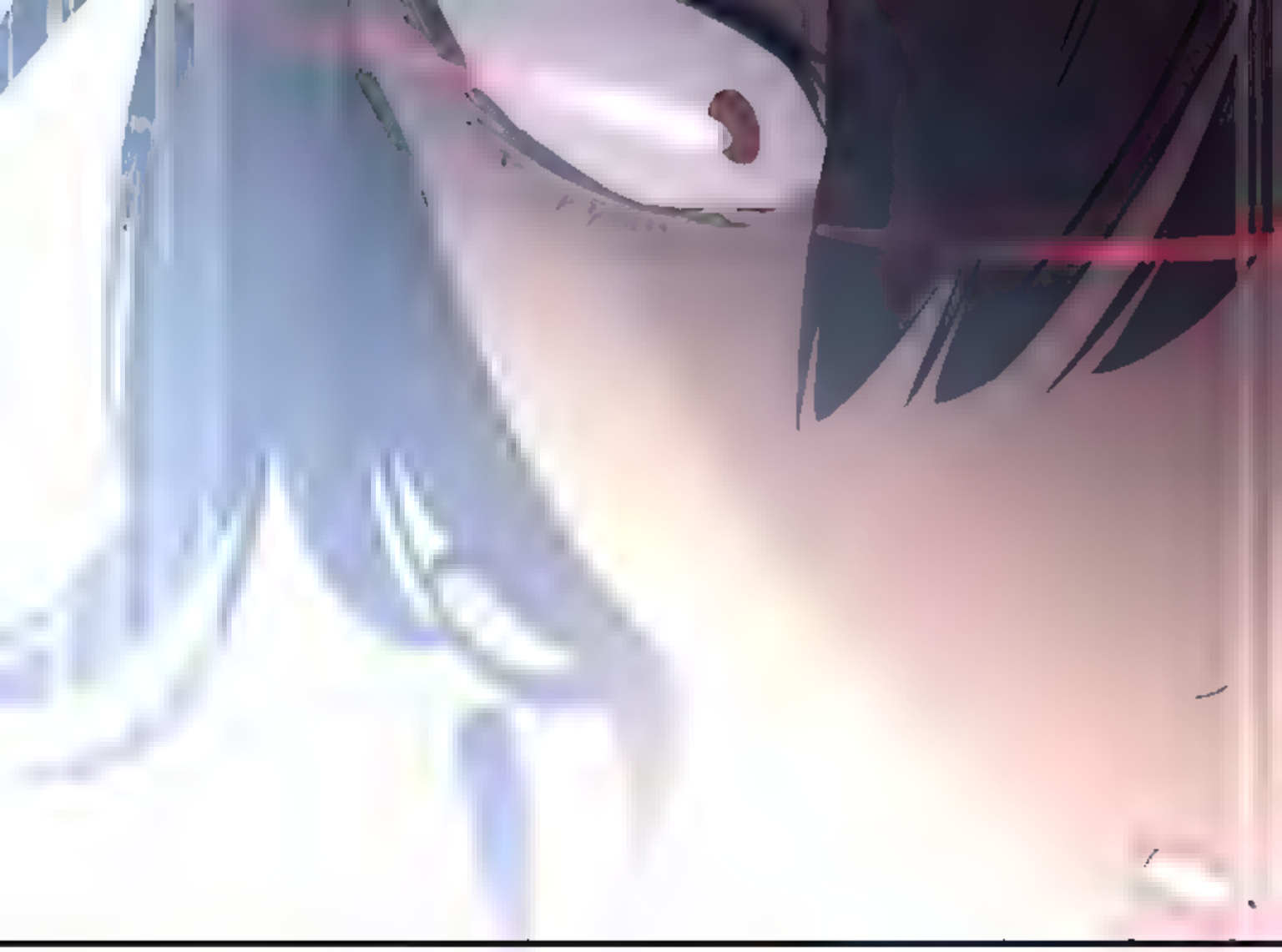
NO.
THIS STYLE IS DOUBLE-EDGED. I CAN'T RISK AN INJURY ON MY DOMINANT HAND, KID.

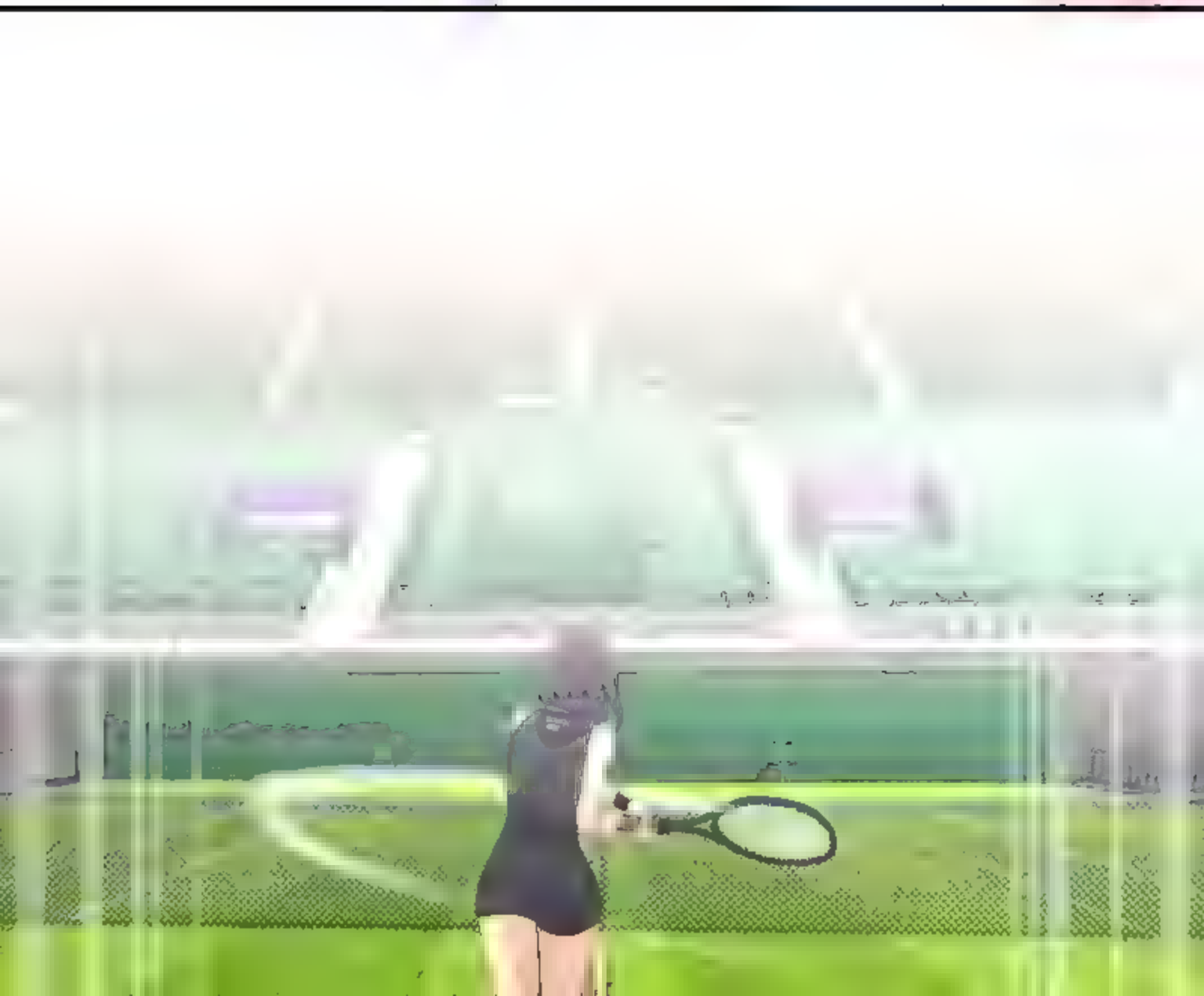
ALRIGHT.
THEN I'LL FORCE YOU TO

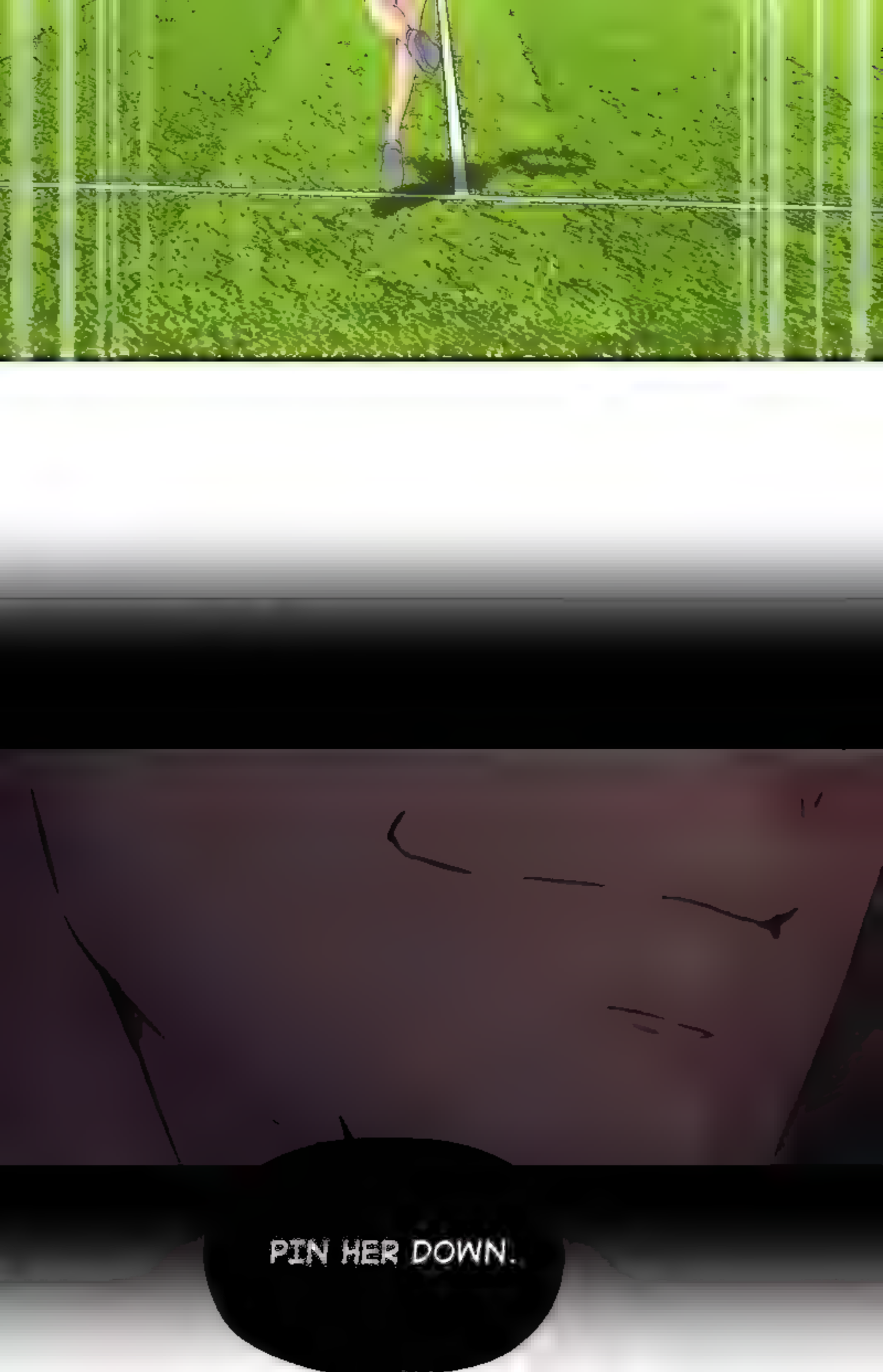
RISK YOUR LEFT HAND.

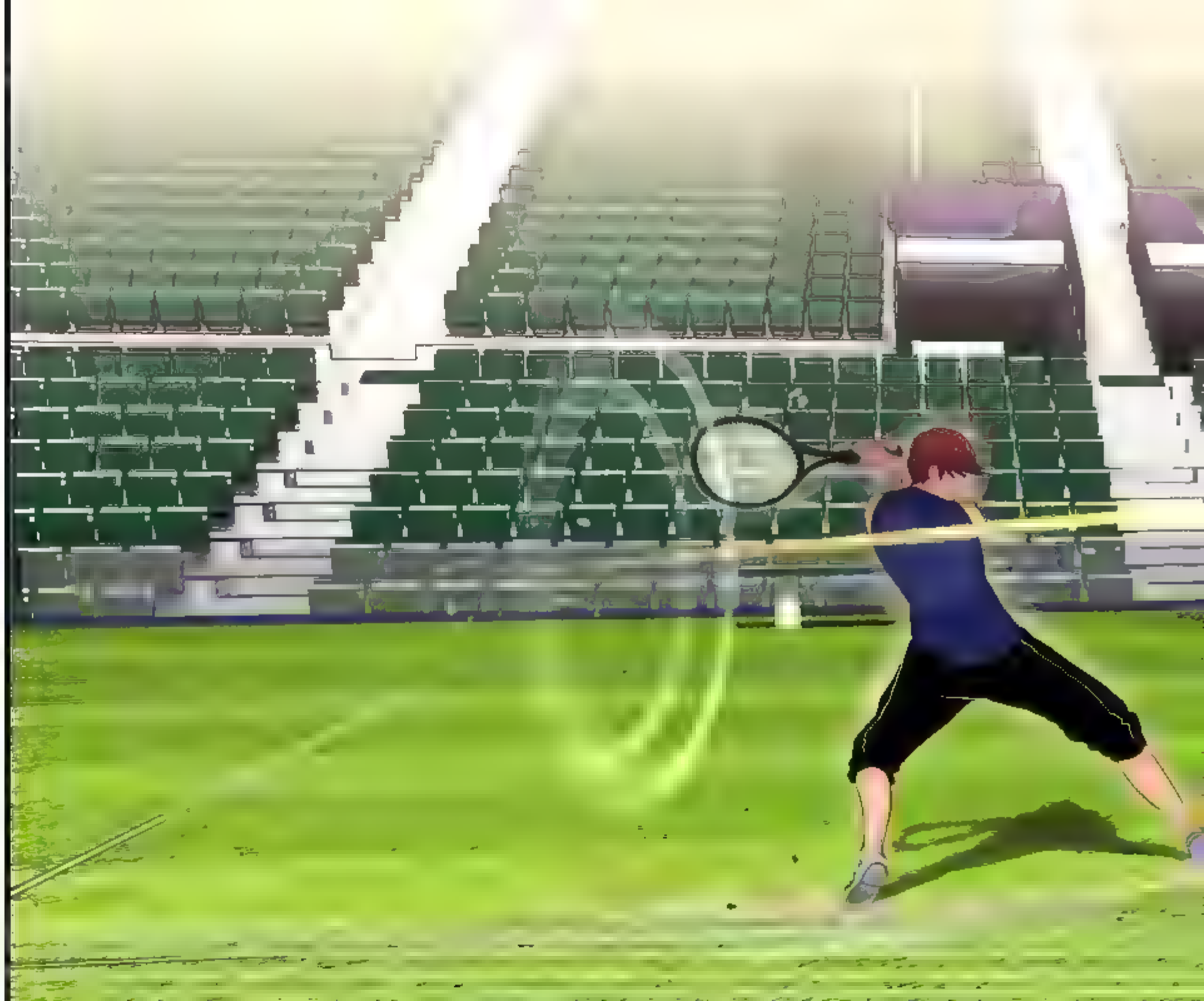
DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU GET HURT..
AYANE-SAN!

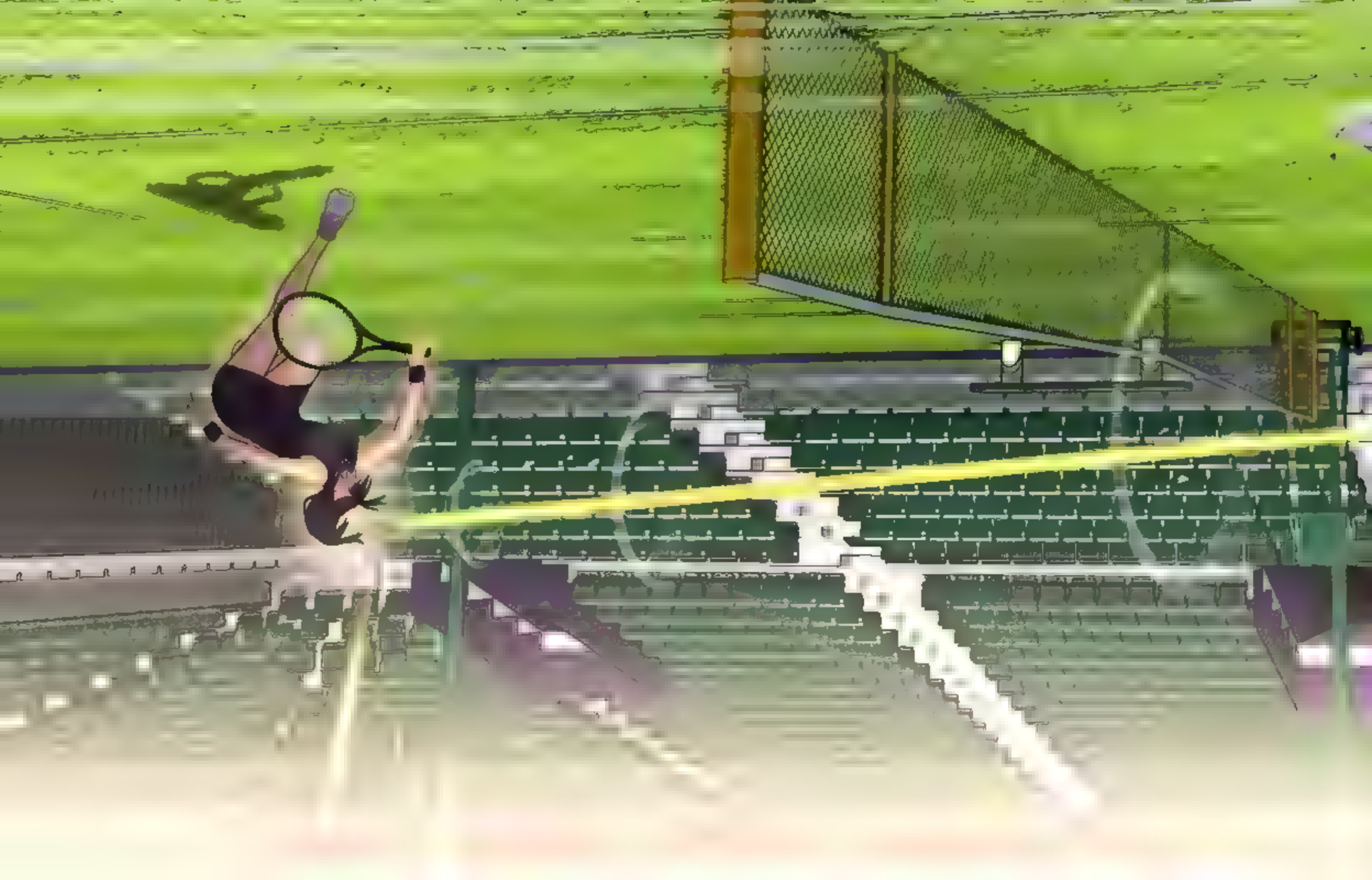
" THEN AXEL
SUDDENLY CHANGED"

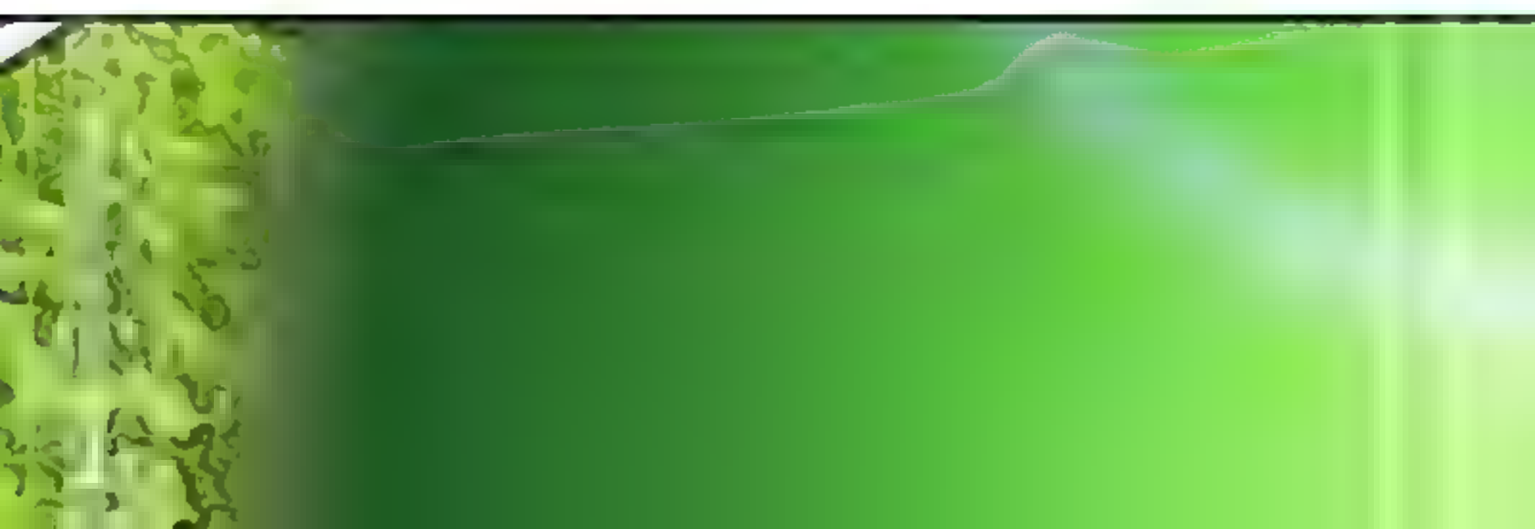


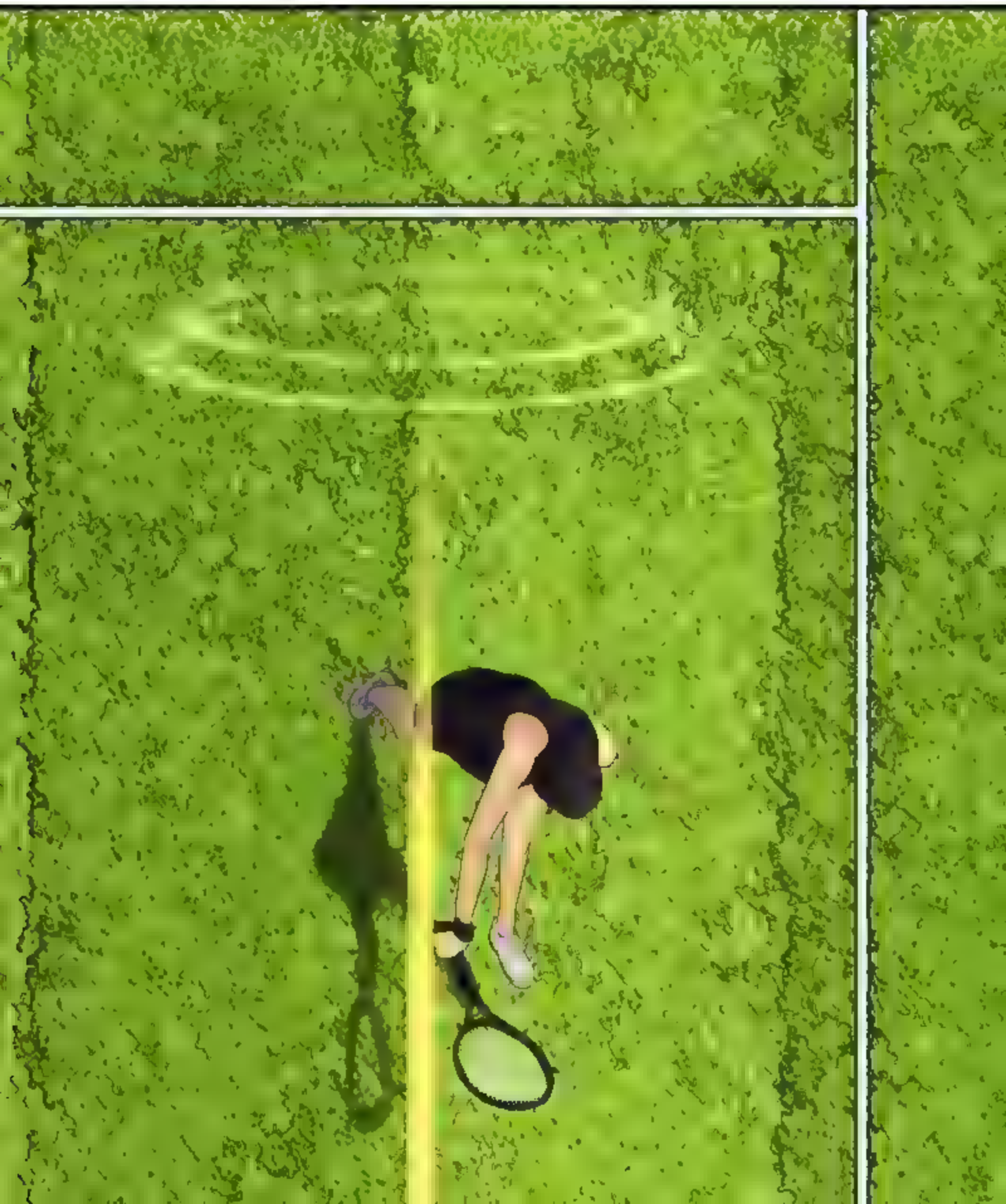


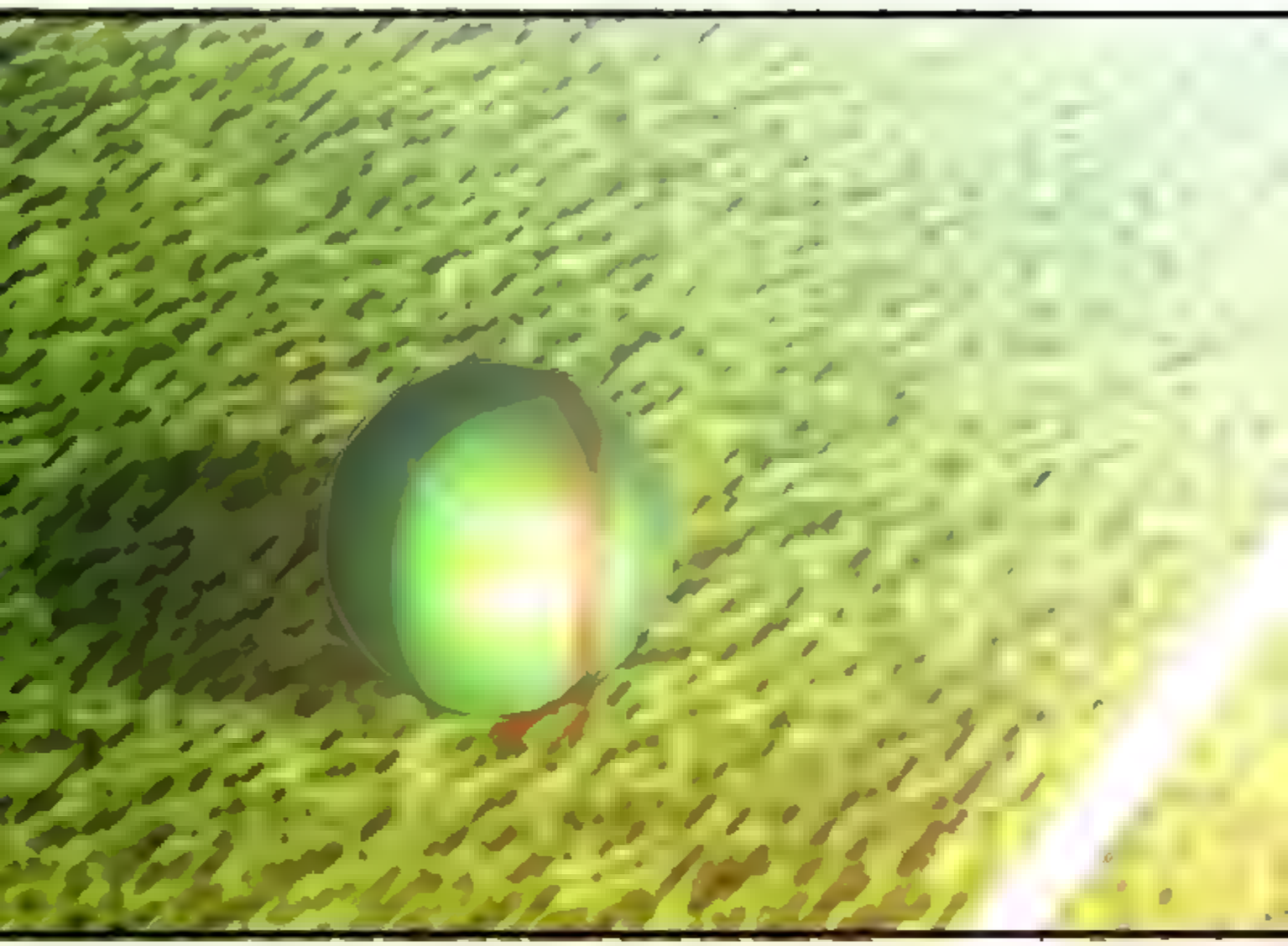

PIN HER DOWN.







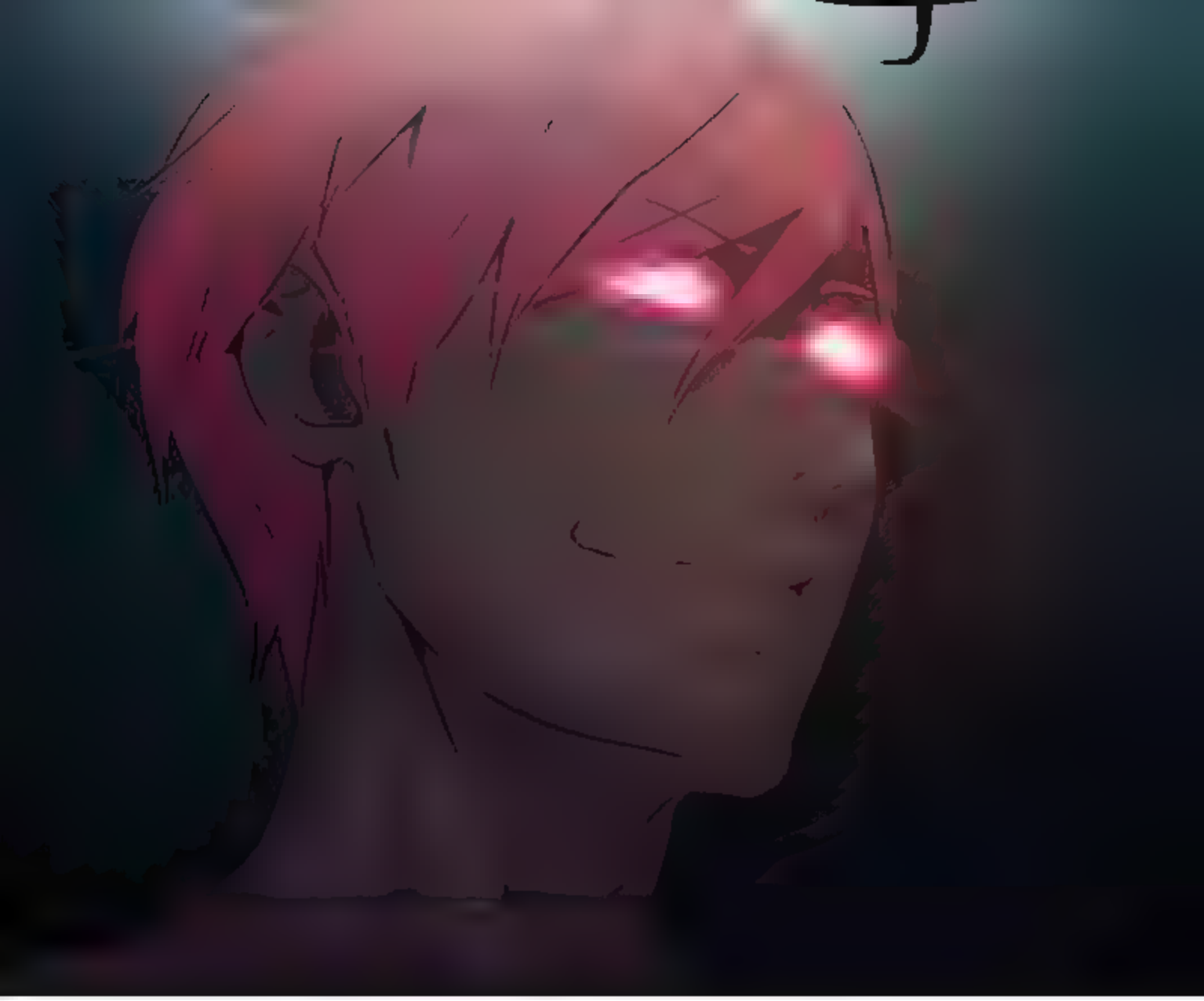


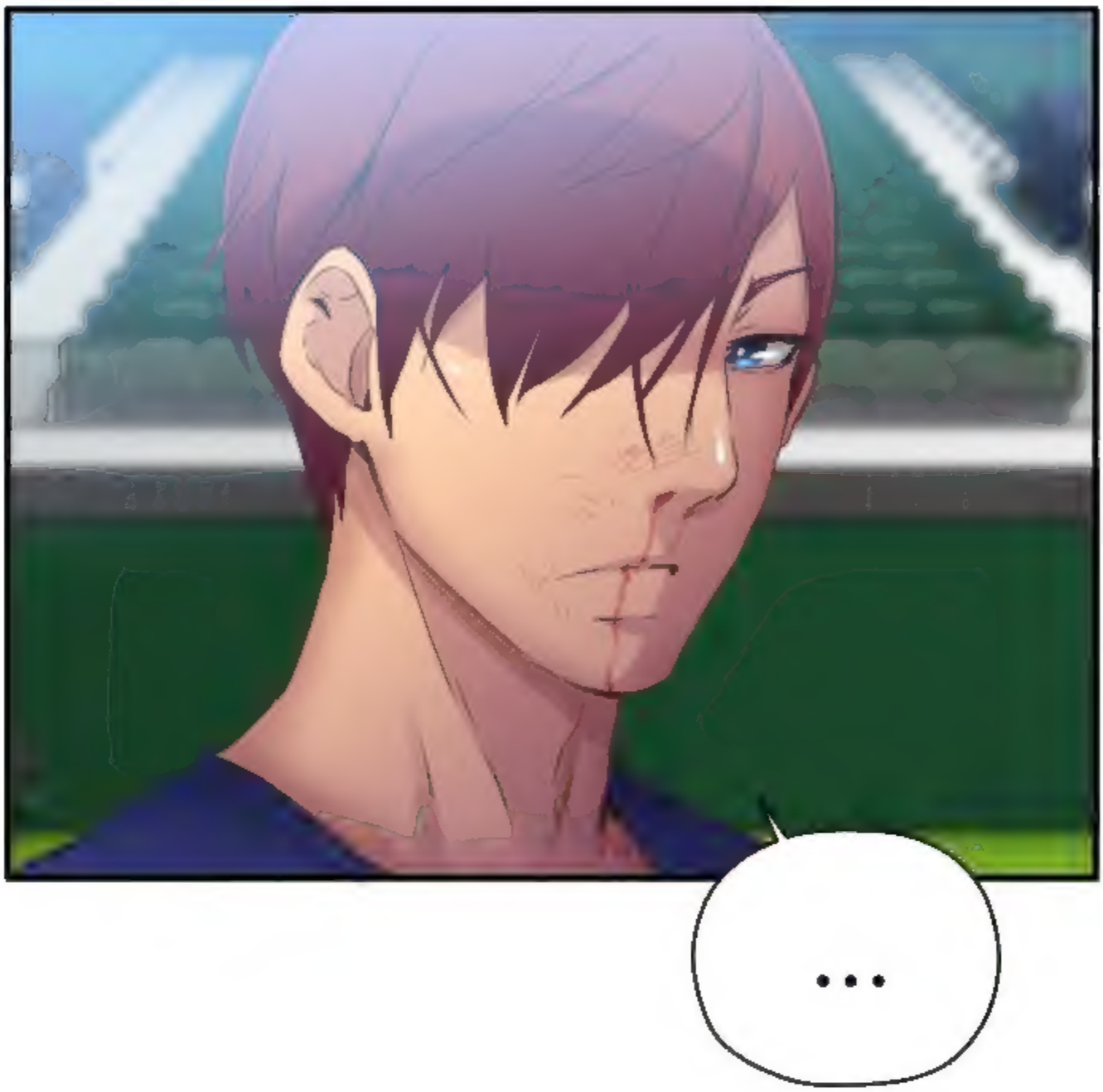


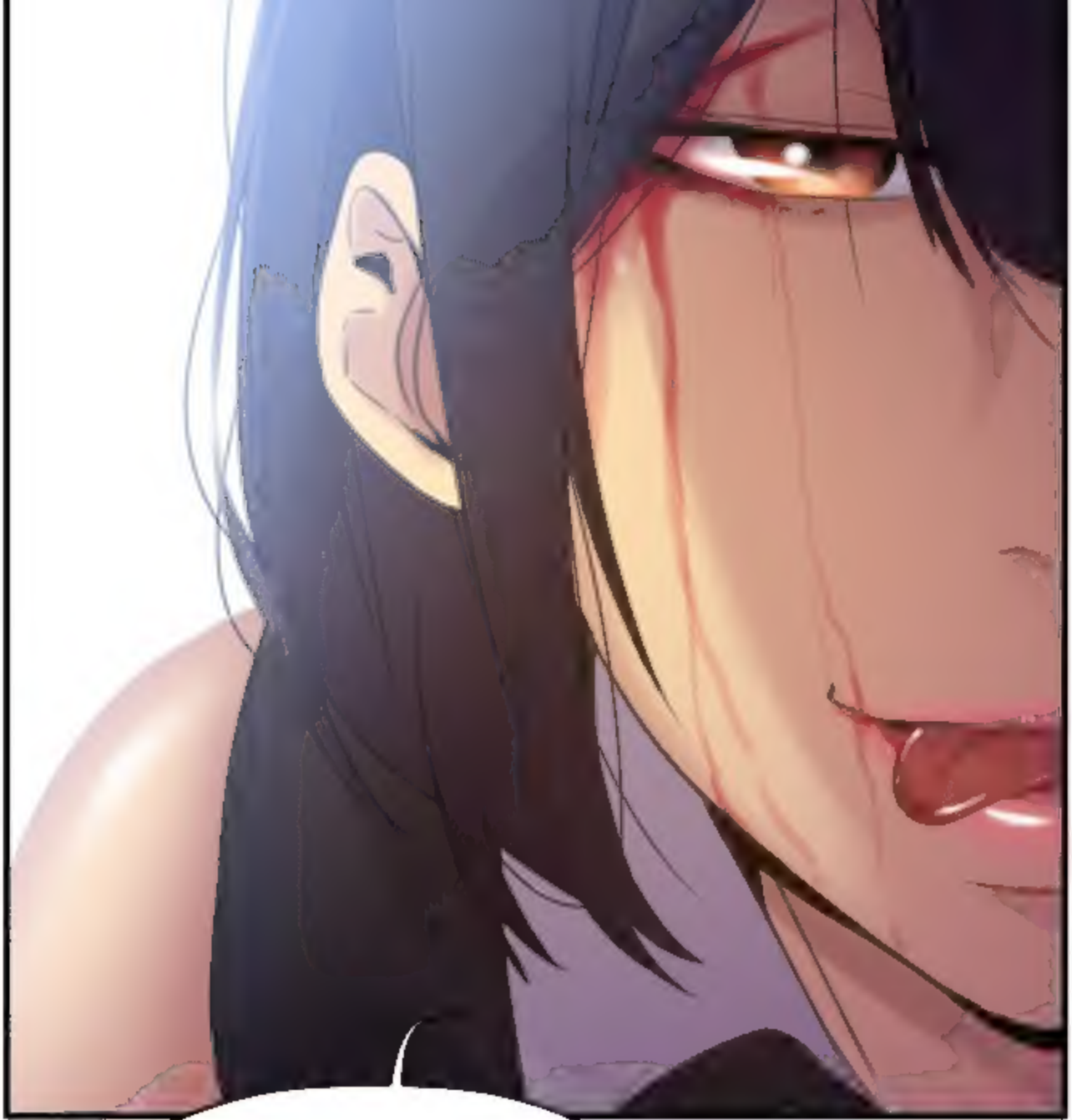
SO IT FINALLY CAME OUT..
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT OTHER YOU TO PLAY WITH ME, KID.

I CAN'T LET ANYA FACE THAT MADNESS OF YOURS HEAD ON.

HOH?






I'LL BE YOUR NIGHTMARE'S NIGHTMARE, KID.

TO BE CONTINUED..

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